

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

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USSALTWO/CTB

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (LINE 4 PARA 2 OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT:APRIL 10 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

1. MURREY MARDER OF WASHINGTON POST SAID BREZHNEV'S
"PRODDING CRITICISM" OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION ON ARMS
CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS "COINCIDES WITH INTENSIVE PLANNING BY
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U.S. STRATEGISTS FOR TALKS IN MOSCOW ON APRIL 20-21."
MARDER SAID "TIMING APPEARED TO BE QUITE DELIBERATE. BOTH
NATIONS ARE PUTTING HIGH STAKE ON THESE NEGOTIATIONS IN
WHICH SECRETARYHOF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE WILL LEAD DELEGA-
TION TO KREMLIN FOR SECOND TIME IN CARTER ADMINISTRATION.
THEIR FIRST ENCOUNTER, IN MARCH 1977, ENDED IN DEADLOCK
THAT TOOK MONTHS TO OVERCOME." WRITING IN APR. 10 POST,

MARDER SAID "ADMINISTRATION SPOKESMEN OFFERED NO IMMEDIATE COMMENT ON BREZHNEV SPEECH, WHICH BROKE NO NEW GROUND AND CONTINUED SOVIET CLAIMS THAT U.S. IS DRAGGING ITS FEET ON COMPLETING LONG-DELAYED SALT.,

2. JIM ANDERSON OF UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL SAID VANCE TOLD AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS MEETING IN WASHINGTON MONDAY THAT USSR HAS AGREED TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS NEXT MONTH ON TREATY TO BAN KILLER SATELLITES. VANCE SAID EVIDENCE THAT SOVIET UNION IS DEVELOPING AN ANTI-SATELLITE CAPACITY "IS DISTURBING." VANCE SAID U.S. HAS "PROPOSED TALKS WITH SOVIETS AIMED AT SUSPENDING ANTI-SATELLITE TESTING AND KEEPING SPACE OPEN FOR FREE AND PEACEFUL USE BY ALL. I CAN CONFIRM TODAY THAT SOVIET UNION HAS RECENTLY ACCEPTED OUR PROPOSAL, AND TALKS WILL BEGIN NEXT MONTH." ANDERSON REPORTED THAT STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS SAID EXACT TIME AND PLACE OF TALKS NOT SET, BUT IT IS EXPECTED MEETING WILL BE IN GENEVA; ANDERSON SAID VANCE'S SPEECH ALSO WAS RESPONSE TO RECENT SOVIET CRITICISMS THAT U.S. IS STALLING IN SALT. VANCE SAID ANY SALT AGREEMENT "MUST BE MEASURED AGAINST YARDSTICK OF NATIONAL SECURITY. IT MUST CLEARLY MAINTAIN OR IMPROVE OUR OVER-ALL SECURITY.... IT MUST TAKE FULL ACCOUNT OF INTERESTS OF OUR ALLIES AS WELL AS OURSELVES; AND WE MUST HAVE CONFIDENCE IN OUR INDEPENDENT ABILITY TO VERIFY ADEQUATELY SOVIET COMPLIANCE. WE SHOULD NOT AND

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WE WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY AGREEMENT THAT DOES NOT MEET THESE ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS."

3. WALTER PINCUS, WRITING IN APRIL 10 WASHINGTON POST, SAID DEFENSE SECRETARY BROWN YESTERDAY DOWNPLAYED IMPORTANCE OF NEUTRON WEAPONS SAYING THERE ARE "OTHER WAYS TO DO SAME THING." BROWN SUGGESTED THAT CONVENTIONAL ANTI-TANK WEAPONS AND NUCLEAR BUT NON-NEUTRON SHELLS AND MISSILE WARHEADS COULD FILL GAP SHOULD CARTER DECIDE NOT TO EXERCISE OPTION OF PRODUCING NEUTRON WEAPONS, PINCUS SAID. APPEARING ON CBS PROGRAM "FACE NATION," BROWN DESCRIBED NEUTRON WEAPONS AS "USEFUL MILITARILY" BUT SAID THEY WOULD NOT MAKE "DECISIVE DIFFERENCE" BY THEMSELVES IN DEFENSE OF WESTERN EUROPE BY NATO. EARLIER, IN SATURDAY POST, PINCUS SAID CARTER'S DECISION TO DEFER IMMEDIATE PRODUCTION OF NEUTRON WEAPONS AND AWAIT SOVIET RESPONSE SEEMED TO COOL DOWN MANY BUT NOT ALL CONGRESSIONAL CRITICS WHO FEARED PROGRAM WAS GOING TO BE CANCELLED. "TO GIVE PROOF THAT REAL NEUTRON OPTION CONTINUED TO EXIST, ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS POINTED OUT THAT PRESIDENT'S PROGRAM REQUIRES ESTABLISHMENT OF PRODUCTION LINES FOR BUILDING NEW EIGHT-INCH ARTILLERY SHELLS AND LANCE

MISSILE WARHEADS -- LINES THAT WITHIN NEXT YEAR COULD BE FIXED TO TURN OUT EITHER NUCLEAR OR NEUTRON VERSIONS OF THOSE WEAPONS."

4. HENRY TREWHITT OF BALTIMORE SUN OBSERVED MONDAY THAT PRESIDENT'S "LINKAGE OF NEUTRON WARHEAD TO SOVIET MILITARY MEASURES GENERALLY, SEEMINGLY AN UNPRECEDENTED ASSOCIATION OF LONG-RANGE AND SHORT-RANGE WEAPONS, IS SURE TO IRRITATE MOSCOW FURTHER. IT MAY PLACATE SOME OF

MR. CARTER'S DOMESTIC CRITICS."

5. SYNDICATED COLUMNISTS ROWLAND EVANS AND ROBERT NOVAK, IN WASHINGTON POST, SAID WHAT FINALLY PERSUADED CARTER UNCLASSIFIED

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TO ANNOUNCE HIS DECISION LAST FRIDAY TO 'DEFER' PRODUCTION -- INSTEAD OF CANCEL IT OUTRIGHT -- WAS NOT ADVISERS SUCH AS VANCE AND BRZEZ NSKI "BUT FIRESTORM OF CRITICISM IN NEW YORK TIMES, WASHINGTON POST AND OTHER INFLUENTIAL PAPERS."

6. RICHARD BURT OF NEW YORK TIMES QUOTED HIGH-RANKING ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL AS SAYING "IN END MR. CARTER GOT WHAT HE ALWAYS WANTED -- REAL POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR WEAPON. IT IS IRONIC, HOWEVER, THAT IT CAME AT POINT WHEN IT WAS TOO LATE TO AVERT TREMENDOUS DAMAGE HIS EARLIER HANDLING OF ISSUE DID TO NATO ALLIANCE AND PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN WHITE HOUSE LEADERSHIP."

7. NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIALY POINTED OUT IDEA OF ENDING PRODUCTION OF FISSIONABLE MATERIAL FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND TRANSFERRING SUBSTANTIAL EXISTING STOCKS TO PEACEFUL USES IS ONE OF OLDEST ARMS CONTROL PROPOSALS OF NUCLEAR AGE. "SECRETARY VANCE'S DESIRE TO HAVE AN INTERAGENCY PANEL REEXAMINE IDEA FOR SUBMISSION TO U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT NEXT MONTH DESERVED SOMETHING BETTER THAN KNEE-JERK CRITICISM FROM PENTAGON... PRESIDENT CARTER SHOULD AUTHORIZE PROPOSED STUDY." VANCE

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